

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00645 090555Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /073 W

----- 048878

R 090405Z APR 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3532

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 645

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, KN

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN/NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER WHO VISITED PYONGYANG LAST WEEK TOLD USLO THAT A FOUR-MAN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WILL BE SET UP IN PYONGYANG WITHIN A MONTH. THE EMBASSY WILL BE HEADED BY A CHARGE "FOR THE TIME BEING" WITH THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN PEKING CONCURRENTLY NAMED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE DPRK. VISIT WAS TO INSPECT FACILITIES IN PYONGYANG SO ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE.

2. THE EMBOFF FOUND PYONGYANG WITH ITS SKYSCRAPERS PHYSICALLY MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN PEKIING, BUT HE DESCRIBED THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AS "PURE FASCISM". HIS EXPERIENCE WITH THE MAO CULT IN CHINA HAD NOT PREPARED HIM FOR THE ALL-PERVASIVE NORTH KOREAN ADULATION OF KIM IL-SUNG. EACH PLACE THEY VISITED HAD CHAIRS KIM HAD SUPPOSEDLY BLESSED WITH HIS BULK WHICH WERE CAREFULLY COVERED WITH LINEN AND MARKED WITH A PLAQUE AND A KIM PHOTOGRAPH. WILE RIDING THE NEW SUBWAY SYSTEM, THE AUSTRALIANS CAME ACROSS ONE CAR THAT WAS EMPTY EXCEPT FOR GUARDS. AFTER PUSHING THEMSELVES INTO THE CAR-- THE ADJOINING ONE WAS OVERFLOWING WITH PASSENGERS-- THEY

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FOUND THE UBIQUITOUS CHAIRS, LINEN, PLAQUE AND PHOTOGRAPH.

APPARENTLY KIM HAD USED THIS CAR FOR THE SUBWAY DEDICATION CEREMONIES
SOME FIFTEEN TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS EARLIER AND IT HAD BEEN REGULARLY
MAKING THE CIRCUIT EMPTY EVER SINCE.

3. WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED FULLER ACCOUNT OF AUSTRALIAN IMPRESSIONS
WHICH WE WILL FORWARD TO WASHINGTON.
BUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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